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HELP!
THEIR CRY
OUR CALL

The Week of Prayer for
International Missions
Nov. 30—Dec. 7, 1997

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Missionaries answer poor's cries for help

KINUSKUSAN, Philippines (IMB) — Evelyn had reached the end of her frayed hope.

Trapped in poverty and married to a mentally ill man who repeatedly attempted suicide, the young woman lived in a shanty in a tribal village in the Philippines.

Rejected by her community and her own family because of her husband's condition, she lost interest in life.

She stopped eating — or taking proper care of her one-year-old daughter, Angela.

Soon Evelyn was anemic, and her child began suffering from severe malnutrition and the scabies that covered her body. No one seemed to care.

No one cared, that is, except Elsa Calibay, a health worker from the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center.

She visited Evelyn again and again, winning her trust. She brought medicine, taught Evelyn simple health and hygiene lessons and convinced her to plant a FAITH (Food Always In The Home) garden, a basic vegetable garden designed by Rural Life Center workers to promote family nutrition.

Mother and child regained health and hope. Meanwhile, God healed Evelyn's husband's mind. The couple gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

They learned how to grow in their new way of life — and share it — through a Rural Life Center training program called TEACH (Tribal Evangelism, Agriculture, Church planting and Health care).

Such stories of redemption make Southern Baptist missionary Linda Pegram's day.



ANSWERING THE CALL — Southern Baptist missionary Linda Pegram (left) and workers Lebi Nayak (second from left) and Charusila Naik (both center right) from the Rural Life Center in Kondhamal district of India's Orissa state talk with residents of Kurmingia village about health care issues. This year's theme for Southern Baptists' Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (Nov. 30-Dec. 7) — "Help: Their Cry, Our Call" — emphasizes the biblical call to reach out to the lost by meeting their spiritual and physical needs. (IMB Photo by Don Rutledge)

There are millions of "Evelyns" in Asia tormented by poverty, ignorance, and spiritual lostness, and she would love to help reach them all.

Pegram, of Joppa, Md., has spent most of the last 20 years with the International Mission Board helping heal bodies and souls in Asia.

She worked for two years as a missionary journeyman in Vietnam while war still raged

there. Later she aided Southeast Asian war refugees in Thailand and the United States, and in 1980 she was appointed a career missionary to minister to refugees in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

Pegram, an expert in public health, heads up the health education work of the Rural Life Center's international arm, the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation.

The job takes her and her co-workers into some of the poorest, most isolated — and most restricted — areas of the continent.

This strategy has resulted in hundreds of new churches in the Philippines through the work of the Rural Life Center.

Linda Pegram hopes it will have the same impact in places still untouched by the gospel message of salvation in Christ.

Abstinence gaining ground

DENVER (BP) — After five years of fighting values-free sex education curriculum, Joneen Krauth believes the tide is turning in favor of abstinence.

"It is awesome," said Krauth, a former intensive care nurse who teaches public school workshops known as "WAIT Training," which stands for "Why Am I Tempted?"

Krauth, of suburban Denver, organized the seminars, ranging from 90-minute assemblies to day-long presentations, after reviewing her son's seventh-grade science text and finding a unit included instruction in condom use.

"A lot of Christians take this 'all or nothing' approach and get nowhere," said Krauth, a member of Mission Hills Baptist Church near Denver. "We say let the condom people in and let us come in, and let the best man win."

"The research is on our side. I tell students I want to teach them how to have good sex, and that the best sex is in marriage. When I ask teens what they want to know, it's never about anatomy and physiology. Kids talk about caring, respect, dignity, and boundaries."

Looking back

10 years ago

About 40 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) conservative leaders meet in an Atlanta hotel for an all-day "private fellowship meeting" to discuss appropriate responses to widespread political activities of the "moderates" throughout the SBC.

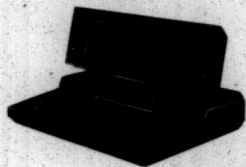
20 years ago

Doyle and Doris Pennington of Calvary Church, Tupelo, are approved as the first lay volunteers for the Mission Service Corps (MSC), the Home Mission Board plan for placing 5,000 volunteers in full-time mission work for one or two year terms by the year 1982.

50 years ago

Joel Dorroh, father to several preacher sons, continues to serve the Lord at the age of 90. During the summer he supply preached at Macedonia Church, Calhoun City, and was assisted in the revival by J. E. Gore, pastor of Schlater Church, Schlater. A total of 17 converts were baptized.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Surfing the 'Net in sickening color

Since the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this year struck down the Communications Decency Act that would have set at least minimum standards for Internet sites, a lively debate has ensued on computerized free speech.

Is it pornography, or art? Do the authors of "The Anarchist's Cookbook" have a right to disseminate the recipe for a gasoline-filled light bulb bomb? Should hate groups be allowed to distribute their sociopathic literature?

Those are the kinds of free speech arguments that have dominated the subject since the U.S. Supreme Court began handing down obscenity decisions since the mid-1960's, but the issue has taken on new urgency with the advent of the Internet.

Internet industry leaders have wrung their hands and protested that the finger of blame shouldn't be pointed their way. They held a well-publicized summit earlier this week to discuss ways to control Internet content, but don't look for any sweeping proposals to emerge.

Much work remains to be done on controlling the Internet, which maintains an annual growth rate that can scarcely be measured.

Mississippi seems far removed from the corporate computer centers in California's Silicon Valley and Seattle's software giants, but are we really that far removed? Is the buckle in the Bible Belt safe from the excesses of the Internet?

I decided to see for myself. As a 42-year-old who doesn't own a computer and has watched the computer revolution pass him by, I have the computer savvy of a six-year-old. With that mindset, I borrowed a computer and went searching. (I'll withhold specific site names for obvious reasons.)

In less than two minutes, I learned how to craft a homemade anti-personnel bomb. I had a list of the readily-available house-

hold ingredients, along with the proper volumes of each ingredient. There was a detailed description of how to crush, mix, and package the ingredients for maximum ignition.

I moved from there to sites that contained information on the most popular illegal drug in Mississippi. There were 20,451 such sites, one of which explained the finer points of home growing and fertilization for maximum active ingredient content.

Another lesser-known but powerful illegal drug had 2,039 sites.

After that I discovered the hate sites, which were filled with racist cartoons, provocations to illegal acts of violence, and bizarre fervor for the impending end of civilization.

By far the most revolting sites, however, were the ones dealing with every possible sexual perversion that can be imagined. There were 522,263 of those sites.

In full, sickening color, human beings were engaging in all manner of sex antics too graphic to describe in a family newspaper. An alarming number of sites apparently contained photographs of children. I couldn't bring myself to open the files on bestiality.

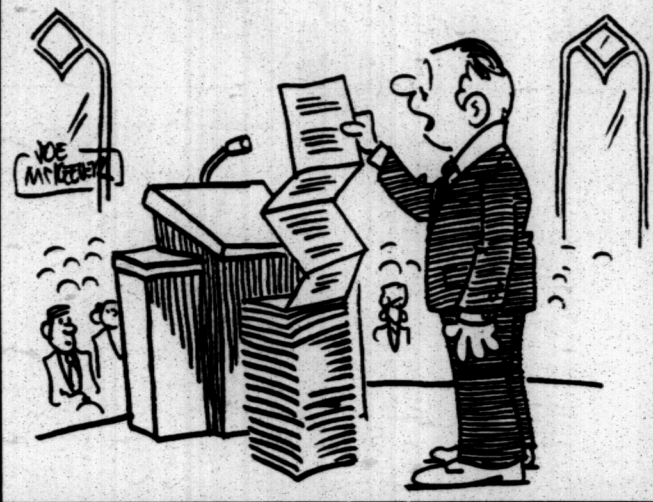
What you need to know is that all the realms of disturbing information and hundreds of pornographic images found in just those few hours were *free and uncensored*.

Even though my age was unverifiable over a computer line, not a single site refused admittance. It's there for the taking by any unsupervised six-year-old with a modem.

If you're a parent, be scared. Be very scared. Be scared enough to see for yourself what's going on with your child's computer. Monitor computer use as closely as television viewing, and arm yourself with information.

If you're a concerned adult — and every Christian adult should be concerned —

"READING FROM THE
COMPUTERIZED VERSION OF
THE HOLY BIBLE.... 'AND
JESUS CHOSE TWELVE, THAT
THEY MIGHT NETWORK WITH
HIM....'"



contact your elected representatives and insist that some form of decency be mandated for the Internet.

Public pressure led television networks to implement a content ratings system, after years of denying such a system could work. The same can happen for the Internet.

Above all, pray. Pray for the innocent victims of those indecent acts, now and yet to be victimized. Pray for the salvation of the people involved in such godless enterprises. Pray that neither you nor anyone you love fall into such a life of depravity and addiction.

Pray that a mighty movement of God will turn this nation to the principles of decency and human dignity on which it was founded.

Especially, pray for that to happen. It's pretty much the last chance we've got.

GUEST OPINION:



My dream

By Lottie Moon
(1840-1912)

The following excerpts are from a letter written by Lottie Moon that appeared in the December 1887 edition of the *Foreign Mission Journal*. Provoked by a movement for a week of prayer begun by the Methodist Women in June of 1887, Miss Moon wrote:

"I am convinced that one of the chief reasons our Southern Baptist women do so little is the lack of organization. Why should we not learn from these noble women and instead of the paltry offering we make, do something that will prove that we are really in earnest in claiming to be the followers of him who 'though he was rich, for our sake became poor'?"

"Need it be said why the week before Christmas is chosen? Is it not the festive season, when families and friends exchange gifts in memory of the Gift laid on the altar of the world for the redemption of the human race, the most appropriate time to consecrate a portion from both abounding riches and scant poverty to send forth the good tidings of great joy into all the earth?"

"In seeking organization we do not need to adopt plans or methods unsuitable to the views or repugnant to the tastes of our brethren. What we want

is not power, but simply combination in order to elicit the largest possible giving. Power of appointment and of disbursing funds should be left as heretofore in the hands of the Foreign Mission Board. Separate organization is undesirable, and would do harm, but organization in subordination to the Board is the imperative need of the hour.

"Some years ago the Southern Methodist Mission in China had run down to the lowest water mark; the rising of the tide seems to have begun with the enlisting of the women of the churches in the cause of missions. The previously unexampled increase in missionary zeal and activity in the Northern Presbyterian Church is attributed to the same reason — the thorough awakening of the women of the churches

upon the subject of missions. In like manner, until the women of our Southern Baptist Churches are thoroughly aroused, we shall continue to go on in our present 'hand to mouth' system. We shall continue to see mission stations so poorly manned that missionaries break down from overwork, loneliness, and isolation; we shall continue to see promising fields unentered and old stations languishing, we shall continue to see other mission enterprises, no richer and no better educated than our own, outstripping us in the race.

"I wonder how many of us really believe that 'it is more blessed to give than to receive?' A woman who accepts that statement of the Lord Jesus Christ as a fact, and not as 'impractical idealism' will make giving a principle in her

life. She will lay aside sacredly not less than one-tenth of her income or her earnings as the Lord's money, which she would no more dare touch for personal use than she would steal. How many are there among our women, alas! alas! who imagine that because 'Jesus paid it all,' they need pay nothing, forgetting that the prime object of their salvation was that they should follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ in bringing back a lost world to God, and so aid in bringing the answer to the petition our Lord taught his disciples, 'Thy Kingdom come!'"

These words were reprinted and commented on in state Baptist papers around the convention, contributing to the outcome in May of 1888 of the organization of women for the support of missions and the establishment of an annual offering that now bears her name — The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Taken from the book *Lottie Moon*, by Una Roberts Lawrence, published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1927.

'Coats for Christmas' drive targets North Koreans

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — North Korean officials have asked Southern Baptists to supply 180,000 coats by Christmas Day to protect the country's children from the upcoming bitter winter.

In a "Coats for Christmas" drive, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) aims by Dec. 15 to receive the new or used coats in very good condition, which volunteers will box to be sent to the beleaguered country.

The drive is a joint project of the IMB, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), and the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

"It is phenomenal the way God has begun to crack open a door for ministry and presence in North Korea," said IMB President Jerry Rankin. "This is primarily due to the compassionate response of Southern Baptists over the last couple of years in providing food and relief supplies."

Since January 1996, Southern Baptists have given about \$1.5 million for hunger relief to North Korea through the IMB and other cooperating agencies.

Rankin traveled to North Korea last month with a delegation of Southern Baptists.

"I was deeply touched by the needs there," he said. "There is no question but that this opportunity to minister to the children of North Korea will save many lives and has been set up by the providence of God."

The request for coats came through John LaNoue, director of adult ministries for Texas Baptist Men, who met with IMB leaders at the board's offices in Richmond, Va., Nov. 21.

LaNoue spent the past three months traveling throughout North Korea in a joint project between the IMB and Texas Baptist Men.

LaNoue said officials also told him massive amounts of food need to be received from outside the country by March

or great numbers of North Koreans will die.

"They want Southern Baptists to help them," he said. "They are hungry."

Officials expect a food shortfall of as much as 1.8 million tons by midwinter, he added.

Flooding in recent years swept topsoil off the land and left mounds of sand in its place. Much of the nation's fertile land has become useless.

A woman in one area told LaNoue, "We don't know when food will ever come again."

LaNoue said he saw God open doors in North Korea that no man could have moved.

He said he often initially experienced hostility from local officials, then watched as barriers fell and they opened up to him and shared their needs.

During his visit, LaNoue was able to arrange for the IMB and Texas Baptist Men to supply about \$60,000 worth of salt to minimize losses from a recent typhoon that dumped

muck on evaporating beds of sea salt.

"Your God moves fast," an official told him. "He must be a mighty God."

Those interested in sending coats should address them to Coats for Christmas, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230.

Persons who would like more information or who have business contacts and could arrange for volume donations from manufacturers or stores should contact the International Mission Board's human needs office at 1-800-866-3621 (menu item 6) by phone or manna@imb.org by Internet.



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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Texans announce new state convention

DALLAS (BP) — Southern Baptists of Texas (SBT), a conservative group disenchanted with recent actions by the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), has begun the process of creating a new state convention.

The move was initiated by a unanimous vote of the SBT board of directors in Dallas Nov. 20. Directors authorized the SBT officers and the administrative director to begin immediately the process of transitioning the organization into a new state convention.

Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas Nov. 10-11 annual meeting in Austin approved an "Effectiveness/Efficiency Committee" (E/E) plan that conservatives fought. The E/E report must be adopted at next year's BGCT meeting in Houston before it will take effect.

Conservative churches unhappy with the moderate lean of the BGCT had been exploring ways to bypass the state convention.

Dee Slocum, pastor of Highland Church, Amarillo, and vice president of the SBT, said the action was due to what the SBT perceives as "a broadening and distancing of BGCT from SBC."

He said the vote elevated the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) to "equal status with the SBC" and also elevated the BGCT to denominational status. The CBF is a group of moderate Baptists critical of SBC leadership.

The E/E report consisted of 19 different motions, 15 of which were effective immediately. These included supporting Texas theological schools, creating Texas Sunday School literature, and expanding partnership missions to include the CBF.

"Texas declared itself as an independent Baptist convention," Slocum said. "It is their intent to affiliate in a limited way with the SBC and to expand their cooperation with agencies of CBF. This is a radical departure of the BGCT from the SBC."

"This is denied by BGCT, but the evidence is to the contrary," he said. "The E/E report established programs and ministries that are almost a mirror reflection of existing Southern Baptist ministries."

BGCT Executive Director William

Pinson and BGCT President Russell H. Dilday Jr. were unavailable for comment at Baptist Press' deadline Monday, Nov. 24.

Bill Merrell, vice president for convention relations for the SBC Executive Committee, said he had no comment on the issue at this time.

Prior to the BGCT meeting, Slocum said the SBT board of directors had decided that, if the E/E report was adopted, it would begin forming a new convention.

The Nov. 20 meeting was a follow-up to that, he said.

"We considered the state of affairs of the BGCT," he said. "We considered the condition of Southern Baptists in Texas. We have a desire to maintain a stronger relationship with the national Southern Baptist family."

"The Austin convention in and by itself is not the reason why our organization approved this," he added. "It has been a collective process across the last four or five conventions. The triggering device was that it became apparent to everyone that this is an attempt by the leadership of BGCT to distance itself from the national SBC."

An additional factor was outgoing BGCT President Charles Wade's comments regarding the historical accuracy of Scripture, Slocum noted. In an interview with the Austin American-Statesman, Wade said Texas Baptists "will support Southern Baptist leaders if they focus on missions and evangelism instead of trying to force all Baptists to believe the Bible is factual and scientifically true."

At the BGCT meeting, Wade also told messengers he supports ordaining women as senior pastors.

"That quote capsules why there is a breach of fellowship," Slocum said. "The challenge is that, if we just back off and deny the accuracy of Scripture, we can all get along. That is not a concession we will back. The SBT will not make that concession."

"We have been trying for years to reveal the fact that at the core is a theological issue, not a political one," he said. "The moderates, the liberals, and the CBF have denied that there is a theological issue, until now."

Since the E/E report first became public knowledge, SBT has received a great deal of interest from Baptists across Texas,

Slocum said; after its passage, "we have been bombarded with telephone calls and faxes from across the state; the callers desire a new convention. They desire a stronger relationship with the SBC, not a weaker one. They want to move closer, not distance ourselves."

Two groups already formed local chapters to affiliate with the SBT. Local chapters do not replace existing associations, he said.

"Loyal Southern Baptists in Texas are going to remain just that: loyal Southern Baptists in Texas," Slocum said. "The BGCT has left us as Southern Baptists. It has done so under the auspices of autonomy."

"I don't dispute that BGCT has the latitude to set its own direction, but we have a choice, too."

"The rest of us have to make a choice, to either be Texas Baptists or Southern Baptists."

Pastors Conf. leaders



Selected Oct. 27 as officers of the Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference, held each year prior to the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, were president-elect Jim Butler (right), pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven, and president Tom Atwood, pastor of First Church, Oxford. Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, is outgoing president of the conference. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

State conventions convene around country

PENNSYLVANIA/NEW JERSEY

Penn/Jersey Baptists focus on 11 million who are lost

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (BP) — Working together to start new ministries to reach the 11 million non-Christians in Pennsylvania-South Jersey dominated the two-state Baptist convention's 27th annual meeting, Nov. 6-7 at the Genetti Hotel, Williamsport, Pa.

"Start Something New" was the meeting's theme and the focus of reports, messages, and business actions.

The 215 registered messengers approved a 1998 budget of \$2,289,886, an increase of about 8% over projected income for 1997. The budget includes anticipated Cooperative Program giving of \$665,758 from the convention's 258 churches and chapels, 23.5% of which will be allocated for Southern Baptist Convention national and international mis-

sions and ministries, a .25%-of-budget increase over the current year.

OHIO

Ohio Baptists sharpen student ministry focus

DAYTON, Ohio (BP) — In an effort to align student ministries with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio's overall goal of reaching a million people for Christ by 2020, messengers adopted a report from its Baptist Student Union study committee during their Nov. 5-7 annual meeting at Far Hills Church in Dayton.

A 1998 budget of \$6,856,170 was adopted, a 5.25% increase over the current year, including anticipated Cooperative Program gifts from the convention's 610 churches and missions of \$4,171,928. Forty percent of CP funds will continue to be designated to go to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program causes beyond Ohio.

VIRGINIA

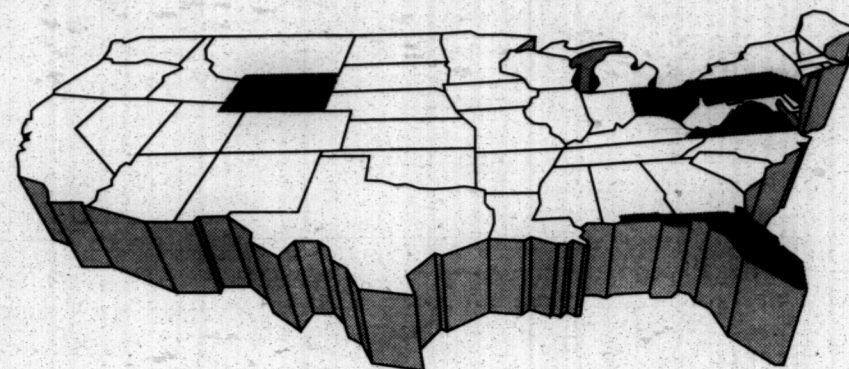
BWA ties strengthened

ROANOKE, Va. (BP) — Closer ties to the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and a resolution rejecting an "indiscriminate attitude toward abortion" were approved during the Baptist General Association of Virginia's (BGAV) Nov. 11-12 annual meeting.

Otherwise, a 1998 budget of \$15.2 million and the election of new officers highlighted a quiet meeting by 1,900 messengers at the Roanoke Civic Center.

Absent from the meeting were representatives from about 150 churches which last year formed a second Baptist state convention in Virginia, called the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

BGAV officials acknowledged the schism has meant



fewer funds to support state, national, and international ministries, and has mandated cuts in the convention's employed staff. The financial loss is less than expected, they said.

FLORIDA

Annual meeting short on business, long on inspiration

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — The 136th annual meeting of Florida Baptists, Nov. 10-12 at Jacksonville's Prime Osborn Convention Center, was long on inspiration and short on business.

None of the messengers from Florida Baptist churches presented any miscellaneous business; three of the four resolutions presented were referred to the state board of missions; and the new officers of the convention were elected by acclamation.

Messengers adopted a 1998 basic budget of \$27,069,494, up \$1,053,602 from the current budget. The convention will continue to designate 51.75% for Florida Baptist causes; 40% for Southern Baptist Convention causes; 5% for church pastoral aid and 3.25% for the Church Annuity Program. Cooperative Program receipts above the basic budget will be designated at 75% for the FBC unrestricted reserve fund and 25% for the Florida Baptist capital needs budget.

A total of 1,573 messengers and 553 visitors attended the annual session.

WYOMING

Convention elects first layman as president

CASPER, Wyo. (BP) — Wyoming Baptists elected a layman as president for the first time in their convention's 14-year history and recorded the largest yet number of messengers, 132, during Nov. 12-13 annual meeting sessions at College Heights Church, Casper.

The new president, Jim Starr, is a member of Emmanuel Church, Rock Springs.

An overall 1998 budget of \$1,007,000 was approved, roughly the same as '97. Southern Baptist Convention national and international missions and ministries will continue to receive 29% of Cooperative Program giving, anticipated at \$341,000 in 1998 from the state's 78 churches and 15 missions, encompassing 16,000 members.

Messengers approved a proposed budget amendment from the floor to provide \$6,000 in funding for the Baptist Student Union director at the University of Wyoming at Laramie, the only four-year school in the state.

Venezuela P'ship needs listed

The "Nuevo Pactoll (New Covenant) Baptist Mission is in need of a church worship building with Sunday School rooms. The days of Jan. 17-26 have been set for a team of eight people to bring \$2,000 for materials and work on this project. The need is great. They are meeting in a home at present.

Construction will begin Jan. 12, at Hermon Baptist Church, Caracas, which needs team of 10 to install roof. Need is urgent.

Construction in Ciudad Bolivar needs a team of eight for April 1. They also need \$5,000 for materials to replace a dilapidated building.

For more information about any of these projects, please contact the Mississippi Baptist Partnership Missions Office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601)

968-3800, ext. 3998 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

E-Mail: 71153.1226@compuserve.com

Camp Garaywa: a special place in life

By 'Wilda Fancher
Special Correspondent

When I was a little girl, I loved going to my mother's Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) circle. Those were the sweetest, most caring folks in the world. I loved hearing them talk about folks who needed to be loved and cared for. I loved hearing them talk about folks all around the world where special folks called missionaries went to be preachers and teachers. I loved all the giving things we did in our church, many of them planned and promoted by WMU.

When I was a very young pastor's wife and spreading myself very thin to be sure I was in to everything in the church any and everybody thought I should be, James wisely said to me something like, "If you want to choose something in the church to give your best interest and energy in doing, I will try to make it possible for you, and I will support you."

It took about five minutes for me to decide. From that day on, WMU was my

special avenue of service to my Lord. It wasn't long until Miss Ed was trying to enlist me as a district leader. James again, wisely, said something to Miss Ed like, "Miss Ed, we've got three little boys. We better wait until they can tie their shoes and cross the street by themselves for 'Wilda to get that involved in WMU."

Sometime later Miss Ed called and said, "'Wilda, can your boys tie their shoes and cross the street by themselves yet?" James and I had no idea how far and exciting the WMU road would be for me that spring when we agreed for me to go to Glorieta to be trained to lead WMU conferences at Garaywa that summer. Then we agreed for me to become involved in district leadership. We were the most surprised of all when the ultimate in state WMU leadership was invested in me in 1984. I was president of Mississippi

WMU—some of the finest women in the whole, wide world.

While this seems to be a testimony to a fine husband and a persistent state WMU executive director, it really is a testimony to Garaywa. For it was times spent at Garaywa that provided for me a place of retreat, a place of quiet, a place of learning, a place of serving, a place of rededication, year after year after year.

Going home is such a special experience. There is always a bit of a sense of going home for me when I drive through the gate at Garaywa.

Garaywa, one of the special places in my life, where God provided for me what I needed to be able to do what he called me to do.

I surely hope that I live long enough to get to sleep in a real room in the adult lodge at Garaywa, instead of on a top bunk. Top bunks are for the little girls, not the old girls.



New SS writers to begin weekly lessons

All three of the new Sunday School writers for The Baptist Record starting with the Dec. 7 lesson come from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Edna Ellison, Women on Mission consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will write for the Explore the Bible series. Don Lum, youth consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Department, will write for the Life and Work

series. Debbie Sills, advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record, will write for the Family Bible Series.

Ellison came to Mississippi WMU in 1995 from the California Southern Baptist Convention, where she served as the Executive Director of WMU and Woman's Ministries. While in California, Ellison also served as a guest instructor at Golden Gate Seminary and at California Baptist College. Prior service

includes seven years editing Royal Service for the national WMU and teaching high school English in her native South Carolina. Ellison earned the Ph.D. from the University of Alabama in 1990. She has two children; Jack Martin Ellison of Jackson, and Patsy Ellison Farmer of Union, S.C.

Lum came to the Evangelism Department of the MBCB in June 1997 after serving First Church, Columbia, as minister of youth and activities for 18

years. A native of Pearl, Lum is a graduate of Pearl High School, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. Lum, his wife Patricia, and sons Bradley and Tyler, live in Clinton and are members of First Church, Clinton.



Ellison

Sills holds the Master of Religious Education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and a BS degree in psychology from North Georgia College. A native of Kennesaw, Ga., Sills has served as advertising coordinator of The Baptist Record since 1996. She has been active in Baptist Student Union (BSU) activities, served as a BSU summer missionary, and also served as a youth and children's ministry director at three churches in Georgia.



Lum

Her husband, Rick, is a graduate student at Mississippi College and serves as minister of music and youth at Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven.



Sills

J. Lightsey, minister, dies

Funeral services for Jody Lightsey, 55, of Prentiss, were held on Oct. 31 at Phalti Church. He died on Oct. 29 at Wesley Medical Center in Hattiesburg.

Lightsey had served as pastor of Phalti Church for the past year and formerly pastored churches in Marion, Lawrence, and Jefferson Davis counties.

A graduate of Collins High School, Lightsey received his BS degree from William Carey College in 1965.

Survivors include his wife Ann Lightsey of Prentiss; sons, David Lightsey, Brookhaven, and Darren Lightsey, Memphis, Tenn.; daughters, Deloris Slade, Hattiesburg, and Dori Lightsey, Prentiss; brother, Frank Lightsey, Hazlehurst; sisters, Elsie Pruitt, Thomasville, Ala., and Betty Sullivan, Taylorsville; and seven grandchildren.

Staying Well Informed

Dealing With Holiday Grief

The holidays are often hard on those grieving the recent death of a loved one. The loss of a spouse, child or parent is especially poignant during the holidays. With the rush of family-oriented activities emphasizing togetherness, people experiencing loss often are left feeling alone and isolated.

"When you've lost someone close, you might have also lost a confidant, a supporter, a friend," says Paul Stephenson, Director of Pastoral Care at Baptist Medical Center. "We rely on these people to be part of our lives, and we might end up feeling inadequate and lonely if they're not there for us."

But there are ways to ease the burden placed on those dealing with grief. In *CareNotes*, a counseling publication, author and grief counselor Darcie Sims writes that the loss doesn't have to mean the end of the holiday spirit. She suggests several ways to cope with loss during the festive season. "The holidays can become a time of peace and reflection, a time to cherish the gift your loved one has been — and continues to be — in the life of your family," Sims notes.

Here are a few of her suggestions for dealing with the difficult times:

Be patient and realistic. "Remember you are grieving," she says. "Be kind and gentle with yourself, and realistic about what you expect. Leave the word ought out of the holiday season this year."

Listen to your heart and acknowledge your limits. Spend time in reflection, and learn what you can reasonably expect from yourself.

Adapt cherished traditions. Don't throw your traditions away; instead, change them. Often, you can create new ones that help keep the memory of your loved one alive through the years.

Allow the tears to come, but look for joy amidst the pain. Tears have healing power; don't deny them to yourself. Sims recommends listing all the things and memories your loved one gave you, cutting them out and making decorations with them.

Focus on the spiritual dimension of the holidays. "In this season of light, remember the light your loved one has brought to your life," Sims suggests.

From all of us at Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, we wish you a joyous Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Call 1-800-948-6262 for more information.

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Marriage Conf. slated

Gary Chapman, author of *Five Love Languages*, will hold a marriage conference called "Toward a Growing Marriage," at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, on Feb. 20-21.



Chapman

The conference is sponsored by Metro Association, Discipleship &

Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Broadmoor Church. Churches co-sponsoring are Woodland Hills; First, Clinton; Morrison Heights, Clinton; First, Ridgeland; Van Winkle; First, Jackson; North Jackson; Griffith Memorial; Woodville Heights; Alta Woods; First, Madison; Colonial Heights; Hillcrest; Raymond Road; Country Woods; and Raymond, Raymond.

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1997

Lottie Moon Christmas Offerin

Lottie plays big role in Brabham Christmas

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

According to the Gospel of Mark, on Jesus' last day of public ministry he went to the Temple and watched people give. There he observed great giving and pointed out its most remarkable source: a poverty-stricken widow who gave only two pennies.

Of all the gifts given to reach the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions goal of \$100 million, perhaps none is as big as that given by an 11 year old boy in Clinton.

Cole Brabham is a sixth grader at Lovett Elementary in Clinton. He and his family are members of Parkway Church, Clinton, where his father serves as the church administrator.

About four years ago Cole felt God was telling him to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (LMCO).

"I learned about the Lottie Moon offering in RAs (Royal Ambassadors). I thought God was telling me to help people around the world," Cole said.

His mother Cheryl remembers that Christmas. "The church (Parkway) was still located on West Capital Street (in Jackson) and Cole was about eight years old," she said.

Each year the church's Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) would hold a kick-off for the LMCO, and would involve the RAs and Girls in Action (GAs) in the program, she said.

"That year the church's goal was something like \$45,000. Cole leaned over to me and said, 'It's going to take big bucks to meet that goal.' He then told me he wanted to give \$20 of his money to the LMCO," she said.

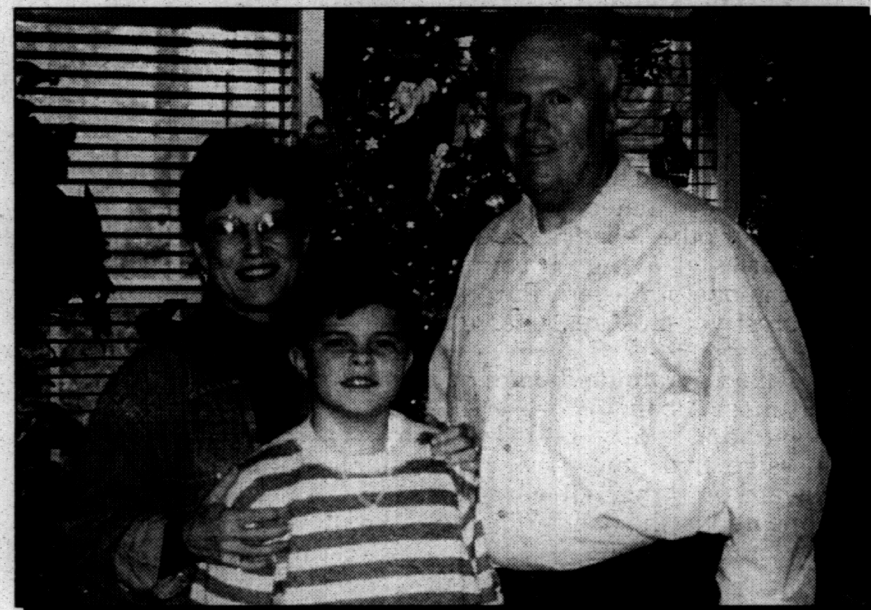
"I had an impulse to tell him not to do this, but Cole just has a giving spirit. I couldn't tell him no," she said.

The \$20 gift was from his own money, saved from his birthday, Christmas and doing little jobs here and there, Cheryl said.

The next year he gave \$50. The third year he was able to give \$30. This year, because he won a fund raising contest at his school, Cole plans to give at least \$50.

"I'm not like a lot of kids and just spend it (money) on junk or something," Cole said.

It's not like Cole has a large cash flow, either. "We have never given our boys an allowance," his father Jehu said. "If they need anything we give them the money. So this was Cole's money, his offering. This was sacrificial giving."



READY FOR THE SEASON — For the Brabham family, getting ready for Christmas means more than just decorating. It means preparing to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Standing in front of the Christmas tree in their Clinton home are (from left) Cheryl, Cole, and Jehu Brabham. (Photo by Carl M. White)

The Brabhams are a bit amazed at Cole's devotion to giving to the LMCO.

"It was not anything we ever said. We gave every year to the LMCO, but we did not make a big deal out of it," Cheryl said.

She went on to observe that each year the WMU utilizes the RAs and GAs in promoting the offering. "I think this as much as anything made an impression on Cole," she said.

In addition, Jehu observed that Cole was raised in a family where giving is considered natural, and not just money. "It is consider normal behavior for

us," he said.

"He has two sets of grandparents who share the same ideals. Both families believe in spiritual giving," Jehu said.

"Jehu and I are both service oriented," Cheryl pointed out. "We both give and do for other people."

Cole plans to give his 1998 LMCO on a Sunday near Christmas. He says giving sacrificially to the LMCO makes him feel proud of himself.

"I just want to care about others, not just myself," he said. "I think it is better to give than it is to receive."

HELP!
THEIR CRY
OUR CALL

1996 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

State Totals

1. Texas.....	\$14,089,218.24
2. North Carolina	9,903,443.52
3. Mississippi	8,002,546.65
4. Georgia.....	7,924,694.88
Grand total	\$93,089,179.27

\$ increase over 1995

1. Mississippi	+\$1,288,083
2. Alabama	+778,502
3. North Carolina	+309,309
4. Georgia.....	+254,172

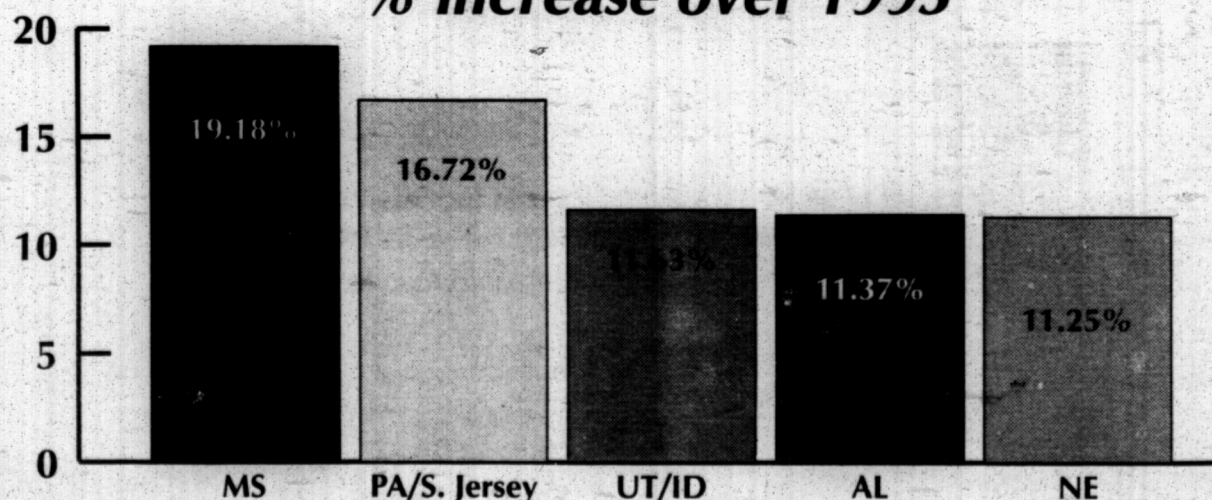
1996 Lottie Moon Offering Top 10 Mississippi Churches

(total gifts)

1. First, Brookhaven.....	\$242,943
2. First, Jackson	242,636
3. Beacon, Hattiesburg	226,275
4. First, Columbus	125,362
5. Broadmoor, Jackson.....	98,342
6. First, Natchez	91,068
7. Park Place, Brandon	78,177
8. First, Coldwater	62,000
9. First, Picayune	56,481
10. First, Clinton	53,911

Source: Annual Church Profiles

1996 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering % increase over 1995



Source: International Mission Board

ing for International Missions

Missionaries dodge danger to spread gospel

ZIVINICE, Bosnia (IMB) — You could call them the "frying-pan-to-fire" sort of missionaries.

When Albania slid into nationwide chaos in March, missionaries Gale and Leslie Hartley evacuated with hundreds of other evangelical missionaries, leaving a country that is one of Eastern Europe's poorest yet most responsive to the gospel.

Failed pyramid schemes had left most Albanians broke. The population's fury boiled into massive civil unrest that tilted toward outright civil war; guns appeared in the hands of gangsters and vigilantes.

Tens of thousands of Albanians fled to Italy or elsewhere, and many evangelical missionaries went back to the United States or to Greece to await the return of peace.

The Hartleys were among other Southern Baptist missionaries who transferred to Bosnia, itself a seething cauldron of tension kept from boiling over by the presence of NATO troops.

They packed suitcases and boxes of schoolbooks for their three sons, thinking they would be gone maybe two weeks. Several months later they were still making do with those few clothes, living in a rented house near the city of Tuzla.

Military bases are just a few miles away, and most days that's pretty obvious — tanks, trucks, and Humvees rumble past at all hours of the day and

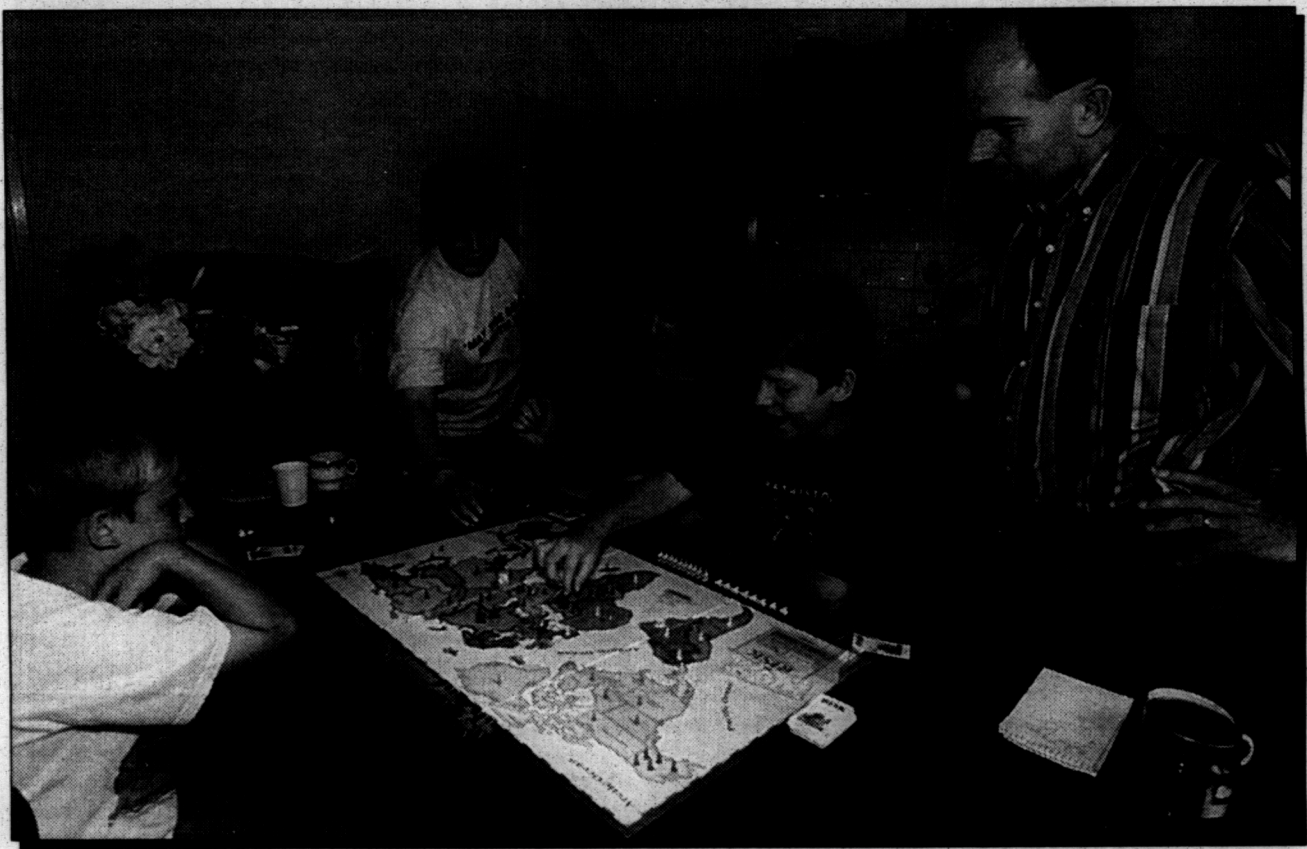
night. Heavy machine guns atop each vehicle are manned — ready for whatever happens in this war-ravaged land. Swarms of attack helicopters bristling with missiles roar by overhead.

Civilians plopped down into such circumstances might cower behind locked doors, but the Hartleys are of sturdier stock — and faith. They have settled down instead to the task at hand: reaching Bosnia for Christ.

They have been leading Bible studies, visiting in homes, and arranging for teams of Southern Baptist volunteers to come and minister. And they've been studying the Serbo-Croatian language.

International Mission Board (IMB) workers ministered throughout the former Yugoslavia during five years of war and spent almost \$3 million on humanitarian aid, channeling funds through local Baptists whose aid organizations kept thousands of people alive. Croatian Baptists began holding evangelistic crusades in Tuzla, following up on contacts made as they delivered food and supplies during the war. Scores of people responded to the gospel.

Soon after a measure of peace settled over the region, the IMB sent six missionary couples into Bosnia to witness and make contacts with people. Two of these couples had served in the Tuzla area: Mississippians Wayne and



Florence Frederick transferred temporarily from France and Jim and Jean Leeper transferred temporarily from Germany.

Gale Hartley pulls out a tattered, well-marked list of hundreds of people these two couples had contacted and began drawing into Bible studies. Hartley spends many of his days trudging up and down the steps of high-rise apartment buildings to talk, witness, and lead Bible studies, mostly based on the groundbreaking

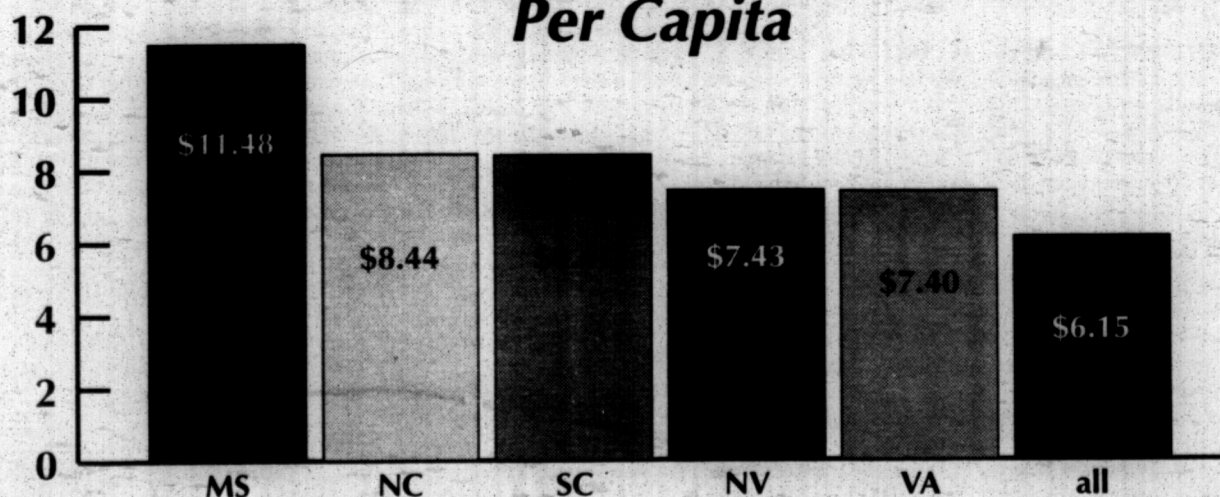
work of his missionary colleagues.

He says Bosnians are still haunted by the war. Many are walking wounded, with horrible memories bottled up inside. Most are nonpracticing Muslims living without faith.

Bosnians don't respond as quickly to the gospel as Albanians. "When you begin talking to somebody, they first want to know which side you're on. Nobody trusts anybody. Trust is one of the war's casualties," Hartley says.

TIME OUT FOR FAMILY — Southern Baptist missionary Gale Hartley (right) watches while his wife, Leslie, and their three sons (from left) Asa, Aaron, and Timothy, play a lively game of "Risk!" — an apt description of their lives on the missionary field. (IMB Photo by Mike Creswell)

1996 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Per Capita



Source: International Mission Board

Top 10 Mississippi Churches (per member giving)

1. Beacon, Hattiesburg.....	\$1052.44
2. Myrtle, Myrtle	467.46
3. Pace, Pace	126.06
4. First, Brookhaven	114.92
5. Kewanee, Toomsoba	109.64
6. First, Coldwater	82.89
7. Mt Moriah, Bruce.....	71.48
8. First, Columbus	53.16
9. First, Mendenhall.....	51.33
10. Oak Grove, Lake	49.90

Source: Annual Church Profiles

V.P. Gore says homosexuals created by God

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Vice President Al Gore stepped up the national dialogue over civil rights protection for homosexuals in a Nov. 16 news conference, saying God creates homosexuals and that God is grieved at their mistreatment.

Meeting with local reporters in his home state of Tennessee, Gore was asked about comments a month earlier in Beverly Hills, Calif., in which he praised Hollywood producers for forcing Americans to "look at sexual orientation in a more open light" with openly homosexual television characters.

God would have never made homosexuals if he knew they would be maltreated,

Gore said, according to The (Nashville) Tennessean Nov. 16.

"I do not believe that God intended them to suffer persecution and discrimination throughout their lives here on earth. I do not believe God would have created them as he has and intend for them to be mistreated," Gore said.

The head of the Southern Baptist's Ethics & Religious

Liberty Commission quickly disagreed with Gore. Richard Land said the debate over homosexuality has never been about "persecution" and discrimination, "but rather about whether as a society we are going to normalize deviant and abhorrent sexual behavior and stigmatize those who follow the Bible in condemning such behavior."

Gore's comments came just

a week after President Clinton's groundbreaking appearance at a dinner hosted by the Human Rights Campaign, reportedly the homosexual movement's largest political organization.

The dinner was expected to raise \$300,000 for the organization and featured the star of "Ellen," Ellen DeGeneres, receiving a civil rights award from the group.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Musicals presented at Bayou View Church, Gulfport, will be "Candy Cane Lane, A Recipe for Life," by the children's choir, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., and the adult choir will present "From the Realms of Glory," Dec. 14, 6 p.m.

Elmo Church, Union Association, will sponsor an old-fashioned box supper auction and cake walk on Dec. 13 at 5 p.m.

Live Nativity Dramatization will be presented by Walker Hill Church, Brandon, on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. The story of the birth of Jesus is re-created with 35 cast members and live animals. For location and more information, call Katrina Irby at (601) 825-4816. Robert W. Netterville Jr. is pastor.

Lakewood Memorial Parks & Funeral Homes, Jackson, will hold its Holiday Hope program on Dec. 7 from 2 p.m.-3 p.m. The funeral home is sponsoring this outreach family program for those experiencing holiday grief and stress. The seminar's featured guest will be Janice B. Bodet, a licensed

funeral director and licensed professional counselor. Following the Holiday Hope program will be the dedication service of the annual Memorial Christmas Tree program. David Mitchell, pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson, will lead the service. For more information, call (601) 922-2123.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Mark Daily; Bobby R. Johnson, pastor; and Tim Blunt.

Carey Chapel Church, Mt. Pleasant, honored **Charles Hannah,** long-time deacon and faithful member, on Oct. 10. Hannah and his wife were treated to a supper by the

Highland Church, Tishomingo Association, held a Deacon Ordination Service on Aug. 31. Pictured (from left) are

deacons and wives of the church. Dean Bumpas, chairman of deacons, presented a plaque to Hannah.

Miss. missionary couple appointed

Paul and Elaine Samples Lambach were among 57 people appointed by the International Mission Board Nov. 19 during a service in Leavell Chapel at New Orleans Seminary.

The Lambachs will live in south Brazil. He will teach at a seminary and she will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1994 he has been pastor of Crenshaw (Miss.) Church.

Born in Port Lyautey, Morocco, Paul Lambach considers El Cajon, Calif. his hometown and Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tenn., his home church.

He is a graduate of Gross-



The Lambachs

mont Community College (now Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College) in El Cajon, Christian Heritage College in El Cajon, and Mid-America seminary in Germantown, Tenn.

He was chaplain at Baptist Memorial Hospital East in Memphis, Tenn., minister of education at

Eastside Church in Douglas, Ga., and associate pastor of Northside Church in Columbus, Ga. He also made two mission trips to Ukraine.

Born and reared in Morristown, Tenn., Elaine Lambach considers Fairfield Baptist Church there her home church. Bellevue Church also

was influential in her Christian growth.

She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Memphis. She also attended Walters State Community College in Morristown and Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.

The Lambachs have four children: Joseph Aaron, born in 1985; Jonathan Carl, 1987; David Gray, 1990; and Rachel Elizabeth, 1996.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey College student Barbie Jones of Greenville (standing) rehearses with Alicia DuBose, lecturer of music, for William Carey College's Community Christmas Celebration Dec. 5 (not Dec. 7 as stated in previous issue) at 7 p.m. in Smith Auditorium of the Thomas Fine Arts Center. Admission to the Celebration is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. For more information, contact the music department at (601) 582-6175.



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PART-TIME MUSIC AND YOUTH director needed. Send resumes to Search Committee Chairperson, First Baptist Church, 108 West Lee St., Sardis, MS 38666.

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SINCE 1953

BACK TO ARGENTINA

Editor:

Greetings from two Mississippi ISers!

Early in the year, the International Mission Board contacted us about doing a 6-month International Service Corps (ISC) term in Argentina. Because of previous scheduling, we could not accept until October. We arrived in Buenos Aires on Oct. 16 and are living in Pergamino, a city of 100,000, located about 100 miles from the capital.

For a number of reasons, this is a challenging opportunity. We served from 1948-1952 in Argentina and our first two children, Helen and David were born here.

Forty-five years after we left Argentina, we were invited back to live and serve on our very first mission field. Imagine our excitement!

We will work with small churches and missions in the area. Until February 1998 we will be the only Southern Baptist missionaries in this area. Several of the groups are made up of new Christians and we are to help them take steps of growth to form churches.

There are at least ten career missionaries from Mississippi serving in Argentina. Pray for them, the other missionaries and the national Christians.

We need your prayer support as much (or more) than we did in 1957 when we first went

to the mission field. You sent us when we were 25. Now at 75 we are back in Argentina and the needs are greater than ever.

Indy and Charles Whitten
2450 Rivadavia, Apt. 2-C
2700 Pergamino, Argentina

WORTHWHILE READING

Editor:

Your editorial in the Oct. 30 issue was the most heart-touching and thought provoking I have read in quite awhile.

The death of Brian Kinsey, a young policeman, was such a tragedy and absolutely unnecessary. Taken from this world by a drunk with a gun.

You placed the blame correctly on the use of alcohol.

This is the cause of much of our crime and automobile accidents.

I also agree some blame lies with the person selling alcohol and the people who support the selling for the tax collected from the sales.

Thankfully my home county of Smith has no legal sales of alcohol. I realize it is available but we have not put the stamp of approval on it by making it legal.

The "Guest Opinion" in the same issue written by Secretary of State Eric Clark, a product of Smith County, was also superb.

I hope every recipient of The Baptist Record will read these two articles.

Thanks for some worthwhile reading.

Haskel Stringer
Bay Springs

CALVINISM HAS NO PLACE

Editor:

John Calvin was a well educated and much travelled religious reformer. In 1541, at the age of 32, he was able to put into effect his ideas about church and government, in the independent city of Geneva, which became a theocracy, with state subordinate to the church. Since all citizens had to subscribe to Calvin's articles of faith, opposition was quickly expelled. One of his opponents, Michael Servetus, was burned

at the stake in Geneva in 1553 at Calvin's instigation.

Calvinism in its original form is a totalitarian religion that will go to any extreme, including murder, to foster its theocracy.

Calvinism has no place in the Baptist faith except to expose it for what it really is.

Recently, Baptists have referred to the Mormons as being a cult. Nothing could be further from the truth. In 1890, the Mormon Church denounced polygamy. Today, the state of Utah, home to most Mormons, has the highest literacy rate, the lowest divorce rate, and the longest life expectancy in the United States.

Unless Baptists have made no mistakes in their lives, they should be careful of stones that they throw and educate themselves about articles of faith presented to them.

Kenneth R. Rowe
Charleston

VALUE HISTORY

Editor:

In a recent conversation with Mrs. Bonnie L. Cole of Bogue Chitto, who had written earlier expressing concern about the Boyd Shelter and other Baptist facilities and resources, I expressed appreciation to her for her commitment to this historical effort. As I explained to her, the Boyd Historical Shelter (shed) on Highway 61 south of Fayette is indeed in a poor state of repair which results from the fact that our Historical Commission is currently negotiating with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to relocate the shelter for Highway 61 expansion. A storm had damaged the facility. Because of that, we feel it would not be wise to use our limited funds to repair a facility that will soon be razed and relocated.

We at the Commission welcome the contribution of any historical materials that we may preserve for posterity. We currently have several thousand valuable items in the Commission Library, some of which are protected in our large fireproof vault. The Commission is always delighted to receive cash donations that will enable us to buy additional materials.

We likewise wish to encourage all Mississippi Baptist to identify significant historical sites and enlist the aid of appropriate individuals to identify and upgrade those facets of our Baptist heritage. For example, some years ago the Whitfield Cemetery was fenced and identified with a new marker.

With the demise of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, it behooves all Baptists who value our history and heritage to take meaningful steps to preserve it.

Edward L. McMillan
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission

CHRIST PAID FOR ALL

Editor:

For years I have been under the impression that Southern Baptists were guided by the principles set forth in the Word of God. I have never seen the name of Calvin, nor any Armenian mentioned, therein.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the fact that Jesus Christ, "slain before the foundations of the world," died for all lost sinners. The first expression of the gospel took place in the Garden of Eden shortly after Adam and Eve realized they were spiritually dead! It doesn't take a seminary professor, nor even a seminary graduate, nor even a seminary drop-out to figure that God the Father sent the Word into the Garden to seek and to save Adam and Eve, who were lost. There were only two individuals in the world at that time, and all of them were lost.

The work of Christ on the cross paid for all the sins of the world. He suffered the hell of every person in the world. Calvin and the Armenians have done only one thing that has been significant. They have brought about two "isms" that can be counted with all the other "isms" that man has espoused. All of the "isms" of the world will burn at the Great White Throne or at the judgment seat of Christ.

When we hitch our wagon to one of these "stars" we find nothing but discord.

David W. Koons
Shelby



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

A diamond in the rough

Genesis 27:1-28:9

By Edna Martin Ellison

During his youth Jacob may have seemed like a loser to those around him. We could call him a diamond in the rough. Though he had been chosen by God, he made some bad choices. Bible teachers have called him a conniver, usurper, cheater, and rascal. Looking at the flaws in Jacob's character will help us to see how we view other people in light of their character flaws. As Christians we can look beyond others' faults and see their potential as God does.

The five sessions of this unit will trace how God transformed Jacob from selfishness to servanthood and made him the father of God's chosen people. This first lesson details Jacob's early life.

Before Jacob was born, God chose him to carry the covenant begun with his grandfather, Abraham (Gen. 25:23).

God's choice of Jacob, however, did not mean he was virtuous. On the contrary, layers of negative character traits hid Jacob's spiritual potential.

Jacob's mother, Rebekah, plotted to deceive her blind husband, Isaac, so that Jacob could gain his inheritance from his older twin brother, Esau (Gen. 27:1-17). Jacob cooperated willingly to deceive his father so he could become the heir of the blessing. Genesis notes that while Esau was hairy, Jacob was "smooth." Dressed in Esau's best clothes (v. 15) and covered with goatskins to appear hairy (v. 16), Jacob pre-



Ellison

sented Isaac meat and bread prepared by Rebekah. Jacob's methods were indeed smooth! Tricking his father, pretending to be Esau (v. 18-19), and lying about the food (v. 19), he asked for Isaac's blessing (v. 19). After a moment of disbelief, Isaac gave him the blessing (v. 23-28).

In Isaac's day the spoken word was alive with power and meaning. Once a father had given his blessing to his heir, traditionally the oldest son, he could not taken back the words. Oral blessings were passed from one generation to another in a sacred ceremony.

Imagine Esau's shock when he returned! He discussed the deception with his father, and wept aloud (vv. 29-38). Isaac gave Esau the blessing of a second son: to live by the sword and serve his younger brother (vv. 39-40). Reacting in anger, Esau announced he would kill Jacob (vv. 41-44). When Rebekah heard

of the threat, she sent Jacob away.

Questions to Consider:

1. How do parents influence their children? You build character in your children. Are you building strong character or are you leaving flaws that can become obstacles to their spiritual development? Rebekah set wrong examples. She eavesdropped (v. 5); she plotted against her husband (vv. 6-10); she insisted on evil even when her son protested (vv. 11-13); she stole Esau's clothes (v. 15); she adroitly placed the goatskin on Jacob to disguise him (v. 16), and she imitated Esau's cooking to complete the deception (v. 17).

2. Are you accountable, even though someone influences you to do wrong? Jacob was accountable for his decisions, regardless of his mother's influence. He willingly cooperated with the deception because of his own jealousy and greed. No matter what your parents did—or failed to do, you are responsible for your own actions.

3. How do you show

respect for family relationships and for the sacredness of spiritual things?

Jacob showed disdain for the father-son relationship and disrespect for the sacred tradition of an oral blessing. Consider ways you can show respect to your parents, your spouse, your children, or other relatives. Ask God to help you demonstrate respect for family members as you strengthen your relationships. Pray for a deeper relationship with your Heavenly Father.

4. What are the consequences of a dysfunctional family? Because of wicked behavior, Isaac's family experienced jealousy, bitterness, and anger which led to plotting, deception, cheating, lying, threats of murder, and a runaway. Family disruption occurred because of Jacob's actions. A family is accountable to each other to confront poor behavior, encourage one another in spiritual development, and guide family members in love.

Ellison is a consultant in the Miss. Woman's Missionary Union.

LIFE AND WORK

God's missionary heart

Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 42:1-9

By Don Lum

From the beginning of time God has sought man out for fellowship. In the Garden of Eden after the fall, God called out to Adam. The rest of the Bible is a story of God reaching out to men showing them how to walk with him. When we come to know God, he gives us a new heart like his heart. As we walk in fellowship with him, we should see people like he does. Our lesson this week talks about three things God wants for all people. He will use his body, the church, to carry out his plan.

God's Desire: Blessings for all the Nations (Gen. 12:1-3) The

world has grown from one man, Adam, to an estimated 24,000 people groups in the 1990's, 10,000 of

which still have not heard the gospel. God's plan has always been for all men to have fellowship with him. Man was created in God's image to know him and walk with him. When he called childless Abram, he promised to make him a great nation, to bless him, and to bless all the families of the earth through him. We know the rest of the story, that through Abraham's heirs, the nation of Israel was born. Two thousand years ago God completely fulfilled this promise by



Lum

sending Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, who makes it possible for every person to know God directly.

God called Abraham to go. Today God is still calling people to go and share the blessing. Whether it's next door or on another continent, those of us who have the new heart like God's heart will have a desire to let God use us.

God's Desire: Justice For All Nations (Isa. 42:1-4) The news is usually bad: A cruel leader tortures and kills thousands of innocent people, millions experience hunger and starvation, Christians are persecuted. Life is not fair. Even in our small world so many times things don't seem right. Isaiah preached a message of hope to a people in a world much like ours. He said that God will send

one who will one day establish justice in the earth. God desires justice and he is the only one that can bring it to pass. His plan for us until that time is found all throughout scripture. We are to trust him as we follow Jesus' example of servanthood.

When you think about injustice think about what they did to Jesus and read 1 Peter 2:23. If you are following God, you can intrust yourself to him knowing that one day his desire for justice will be a reality.

God's Desire: Light For All Nations (Isa. 42:5-9) This passage first of all reminds us of the greatness of God and his great love as he holds us by the hand and watches over us. God also reveals his heart in this passage as he says to Isaiah ... he wants to open blind eyes and bring prisoners from the dungeon. God desires for all people to be able to really see him and

he uses the symbolism of light so many times in scripture.

This season as you see Christmas lights everywhere remember the light that comes at Christmas gave his followers a job. That job is to be the light that shows others the way to God. God's desire is for all nations to have the light. You will do your part when you walk with God right where you are. You will love people and will want for them the same things God wants.

We in America can do so much to share the light throughout the world with our money and our prayers. But, we also need to be open to God's call to go whether it is a week long mission trip or a long term appointment.

We, like Abraham can be confident of God's favor as we live in obedience and follow his call.

Lum is a consultant in the Miss. Baptist Evangelism Dept.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Walking in Light

1 John 1:5-10; 2:3-11

By Debbie Sills

If you have ever been on a tour in Mammoth Cave, or the like, you have no doubt witnessed the darkness that surrounds everyone when the overhead and floor lights are turned off. There is absolute darkness until a single match is lit. The light from such a small source illuminates the entire room. It reveals what was hidden from sight and helps direct us on the correct path.

The Bible tells us God is light. His light is bright and glorious and filled with much splendor. Darkness is destroyed in his presence. When we walk in that light, in fellowship with our Lord, there can be no darkness.

One can not simultaneously abide in darkness and walk with God. Therefore, if we walk with God, our lives will reflect his light. We will become aware of sin and want to turn away from it. His light will help guide us in our life. We will be surrounded by his light and will shine it on others with which we come in contact.

Fulfilling Fellowship (1:5-7). This passage reminds us that in order to walk in the light of Christ we must be in fellowship with him and with our fellow man. He who claims to be in fellowship with God but does not treat his fellow man with respect and kindness is not truly walking in the light of God.



Sills

When one truly loves the Creator, one loves the creation. One can say he loves his brother, but his actions are proof of his true feelings.

Cleansing Confession (1:8-10). Having the privilege of walking with God does not mean one must be without sin before he is able to have fellowship

with God. It means our sins will become more horrible to us as they are revealed in God's light. We will want to turn from sin and envelop the holiness God's light provides. Turning from our sin into God's light requires forgiveness and cleansing. Verse 9 states God's promise of forgiveness to his children. Confession of our sin and petition for forgiveness is all we need in order to receive his forgiveness and the cleansing power of Jesus' blood.

Ongoing Obedience (2:3-6). Assurance of having something we can not see or feel comes

hard. Our faith is sometimes tested and our sins sometimes overcome us. There are believers who occasionally have doubts about their salvation, and there are unbelievers who assume they are saved when in reality they have never experienced God's gift of salvation. God's Word tells us in verses 3-6 that if we love God and follow his commandments, we can be assured we abide with him. Christ is our example of how to follow the Lord's commandments and we should strive to live a life that mirrors his life. When one believes in his heart that Christ is Lord and follows his example physically, mentally, and spiritually he can be assured of the salvation given to him.

Surrounding Love (2:7-11). God's gift of salvation is proof of his love for us. We are undeserving and unworthy, but he offers his love to us willingly. He engulfs us in his love and com-

mands us to share our love with others. Walking in fellowship with God and experiencing his love is enough to want to share it with others. God's children will want to share the peace and love found in his presence with everyone, especially with other believers who have experienced the same overwhelming mercy and love found when one walks with God.

True fellowship with God is an experience, but it is also an action. We can not stand in God's light without our sins being exposed. Those who do not confess and repent of their sins can not experience God's forgiveness and cleansing. Do not turn away from God's light because of sin in your life. Confess your sins to our merciful Father and bask in his light. Let your life be a mirror of Christ's life and reflect his love to everyone around you.

Sills is advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION OF
SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND
CHILDREN, INC.

The Reedy Acres campus of the Baptist Children's Village along with First Baptist Church, Water Valley, sponsored Fall Family Day on November 8, 1997 in the church activity center. The day's events included a parent training seminar, activities for the children, lunch, a program presented by the children for their families and an awards ceremony. After the activities at the church concluded, all the children and families returned to the Reedy Acres campus for family visitation.

MEMORIAL CORRECTION:

Brandon McKissack
Mr. & Mrs. Bill
Wilson



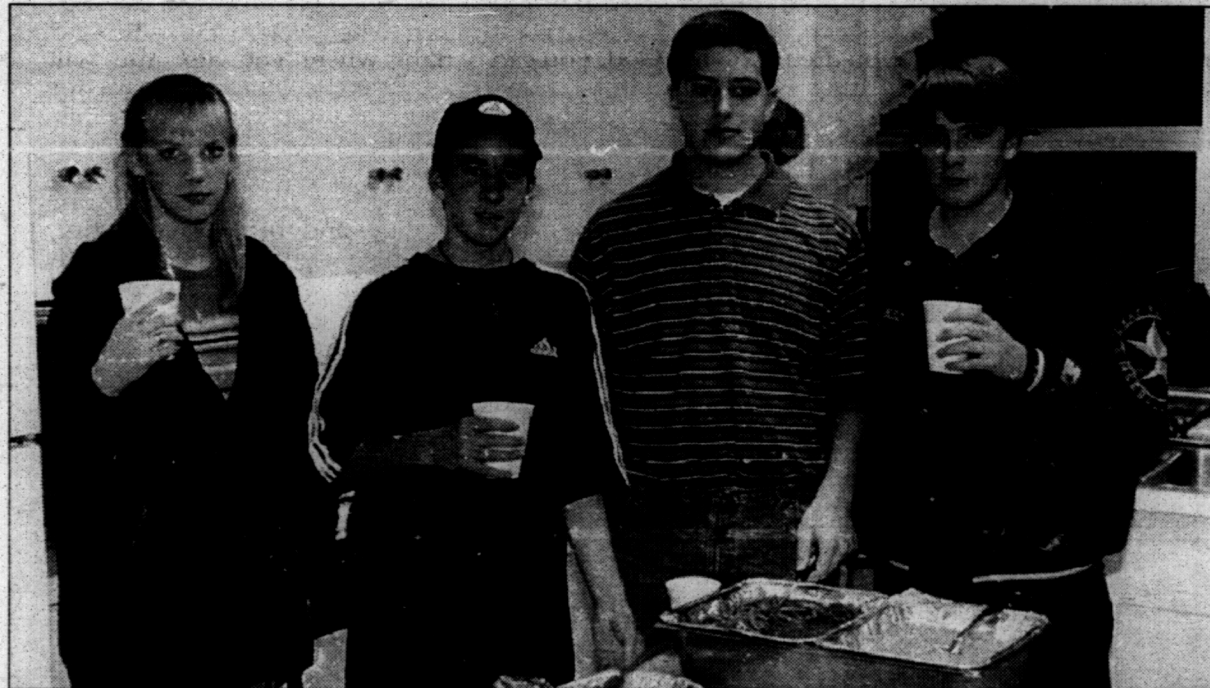
The Baptist Children's Village held their end-of-the-year Board of Trustees meeting on November 25, on the India-Nunnery campus. After the meeting the group enjoyed a delicious lunch. (L-R) New board members are Charles W. Renfrow of Jackson and Terry Wills of Eupora.



Miagai Hinton of Maximus Child Support Services recently delivered boxes of toiletry items for the children at BCV from the associates of Maximus.



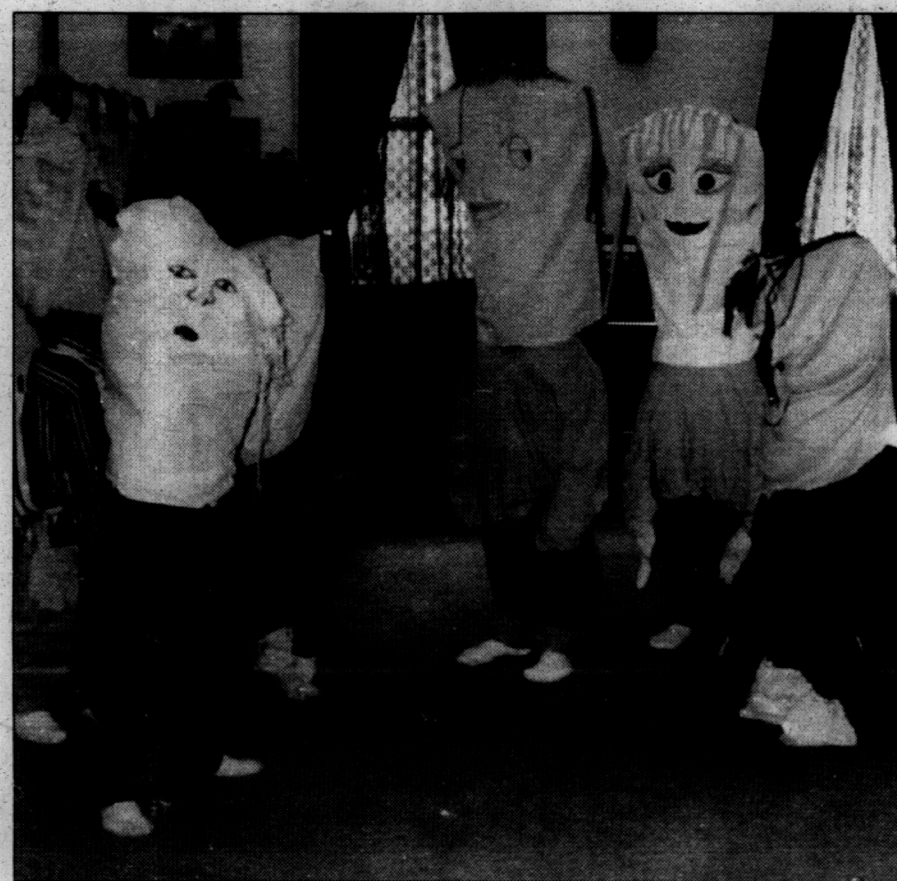
Cody Schaefer receives the "Most Playful Award" from Ed Nixon, unit director, at the Reedy Acres campus in Water Valley.



The youth of Raymond Road Baptist Church, Jackson, served Thanksgiving dinner to BVC residents on November 24.



Lorrin Pruitt of Madison asked all her friends who attended her recent birthday party not to bring gifts for her but to bring stuffed animals to be donated to the BCV.



The children entertain their families with their "Squatty Bodies" program.



The Baptist Children's Village
is offering you the opportunity to purchase
"Memorable Meals"

cookbook celebrating our 100th year in childcare

Make checks payable to: The Baptist Children's
Village
P.O. Box 27

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Quantity Ordered _____

Cost is \$5.00 plus \$1.95 shipping and handling.

The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children to live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

Admit that you are a sinner.
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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FTFLX ZILE IG PIE RM
JALF: QF RM B MQRUE
AHNI NQEV NQBN JAN
NQFRL NLAMN RH QRV.
JLITFLCM SQRLSX: GRTF

Clue: M equals S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalms Eight Two.

Disney's Eisner describes critics as 'nuts'

NASHVILLE (BP) — Disney head Michael Eisner in a network television interview Nov. 23 called critics of one of his company's movies "nuts" but said he would meet with those who are boycotting the giant entertainment conglomerate. He also denied the boycott is having any financial impact.

In response to charges Disney is promoting an anti-Christian, pro-homosexual agenda, Eisner told 60 Minutes correspondent Lesley Stahl, "Well, that's ridiculous. We're not pushing any agenda. We are pushing in our corporate marketplace tolerance and understanding, expansiveness. We are totally onto an ethical compass, a moral compass."

Eisner told Stahl when "somebody says (the Disney movie) 'Pocahontas' is anti-Christian or anti-Jewish or anti-black or anti-Native American, I say inside, deep down, 'They're nuts. They really are.'"

"I mean 'Pocahontas,' I think is one of the most pro-social movies made in the 75-year his-

tory of The Disney Company. It's about an American legend. It's about a Native American. It's pro-environment. It's about the earth. It's about respecting one another. By the way, she didn't become Christian in the legend until after our story ended."

When asked on 60 Minutes if he would meet with Disney's critics, Eisner said, "I will meet with anybody at any time when it is presented in a rational and non-media-hyped way. So my answer is absolutely."

Richard Land, head of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, told Baptist Press, "They stiffed us in two meetings."

"If Mr. Eisner wants to meet, he needs to contact us and invite us to a meeting. And we promise not to call him nuts, and we hope he'll refrain from calling us nuts in the future."

Disney Executive Vice President John Cooke pulled out of two meetings scheduled with critics this summer, Land said. On the second occasion, Land and some other participants

were not informed of Cooke's cancellation until after they arrived in Washington for the meeting. A lobbyist for Disney attended the meeting in Cooke's place but offered no plan to address the critics' concerns. The boycotting organizations said afterward they would wait for Disney to call a meeting to show progress before attending.

When asked by Stahl if the boycott is having an effect, Eisner said, "Well, you've got me here on 60 Minutes trying to respond to it. So to that extent it had some effect. It hasn't had a financial effect."

Of "Ellen", the ABC sitcom which made history this year when its lead character announced her homosexuality, Eisner said Disney had moved it to a later time period and put an advisory on it at times. When asked by Stahl if it were tasteful to have two women kissing on TV, as occurred recently on the show, Eisner said:

"It didn't offend me. Does it make some people uncomfortable? Probably. Did we put an advisory on it? Yes. Would we in the future? I don't know."

The CBS News show also telecast interviews with Southern

Baptists in the Orlando, Fla., area on both sides of the boycott. Walt Disney World is near Orlando.

Jim Henry, pastor of First Church in Orlando, said his refusal to support the boycott included the concerns expressed to him by church members, apparently from non-Christians.

"You know, if you all are going to do this, and this is what you're about, don't invite me to church anymore," Henry said of concerns he heard. "I don't want to hear about it. And anything you say I'm not interested in if this is what you're about."

The report said Henry and other Southern Baptists say they have made overtures to Disney and asked for high-level meetings, but the company has not responded.

"It comes across as being arrogant when you've got millions of people with deep concerns, and there's no response or very little response," Henry told Stahl.

Dawn Pate, a Southern Baptist from Kissimmee, Fla., told Stahl her family is boycotting Disney "to set an example" for her children.

New evangelical-Catholic agreement drawing fire

ATLANTA (BP) — While a new joint statement by a group of evangelicals and Catholics has been heralded by some as historic in its acknowledgment that salvation is by faith alone, others have characterized it as inconsistent and unofficial.

The six-page statement, titled "The Gift of Salvation," was developed by a loose-knit group of Roman Catholic and evangelical theologians including three Southern Baptists:

- ◆ Charles Colson, president of Prison Fellowship.
- ◆ Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School At Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.
- ◆ Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and one of the original signers of the first statement who has since removed his endorsement.

The document was released Nov. 12 with assurances from the signers that "for the first time in 450 years, evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics have publicly agreed to a common understanding of salvation."

Several leading Southern Baptist theologians disagreed. "The document appears to be inherently inconsistent," said Phil Roberts, director of interfaith witness for the North American Mission Board (formerly the Home Mission Board).

"The basic agreements regarding salvation appear to be nullified by the questions which the document says require further exploration."

"How is it that sacramental grace is still an outstanding question which salvation by faith alone is affirmed by the document?" Roberts questioned.

"In any conversation, you have to start with a definition of terms," said Jeff Gros of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

"I believe this document is quite consistent if you understand our definition of faith," Gros said the statement was "useful" and "a good contribution" but not official.

The unofficial nature of the document is part of what concerned the Southern Baptist theologians.

Roberts pointed out, "No presiding bishop or member of the Ecumenical Secretariat nor representative of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops signed the document. It should therefore be taken with a grain of salt."

Roberts cautioned the document does not represent those meetings which his office has coordinated the past two years.

Although George and Land are members of the SBC conversation team, "This document is in no way, shape or form related to the Southern Baptist-Roman Catholic conversations. It in no way reflects upon the work of our Southern Baptist group and was done without the awareness of most of the members," Roberts said.



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

I have struggled without success to end my 17-year cigarette habit. My pastor says I won't go to hell for smoking, but I'm wondering if there are biblical references for his position.

To my knowledge, there are no specific Bible references regarding smoking. If you have accepted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, nothing can separate you from his love (Romans 8:35-39). Your challenge is to live your Christian witness as best you can, every moment of every day. In that context, do people see Christ in you when they see you smoking? We are advised not to be stumbling blocks that can discredit ministry (2 Cor. 6:3). Your body is the Temple of the Living God bought at a high price, and he wants our bodies to be beautiful places of worship and peace (1 Cor. 6:19). While you characterize your smoking as a habit, it is really an addiction. Find a good support group (preferably Christian) that will provide encouragement and accountability as you stop smoking. There is help in friends. Most of all, pray about this and enlist Christian friends to pray for you. With God, nothing is impossible.

I'm involved with a man who tells me his wife left him eight years ago, but neither has filed for divorce and they apparently don't intend to do so. Since this bothers me, should I stop seeing him?

If that man is married, you are interfering with the marriage covenant into which he entered with God. Without question in my mind, you should stop seeing him. Scripture repeatedly stresses fidelity in marriage and — as hard as it may be — you should encourage him to try to work things out with his wife. The question you must answer for yourself is why this married man would date another woman in the first place. If he divorced and married you, could he be trusted not to do the same thing to you? Be honest with yourself. Is he the type of man you want for a husband? Does he consistently demonstrate the qualities you seek in a husband? Pray about this and maybe enlist a few close Christian friends to pray about this, too. You are aware of your difficult position, as evidenced by your discomfort. See to it that you are not hurt any more than you already are.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.